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THE DENTAL ASSISTANT



JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN
DENTAL ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION

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MY WORK

(This letter, awarded the trophy for being the best of seven competitive papers, was presented by Abbie Pryor before the Alabama Dental Assistants Association, in Birmingham, on April 9, 1941)

DEAR SISTER:

Word has reached me that you have taken a position in Dr. Jones' office and entered the field of Dental Assisting. Dentistry is a young profession and offers a fertile field for advancement and progress.

Looking back over these twenty-one years of experience, I am satisfying my yen to write, thinking perhaps my words will encourage and help you.

Dental Assisting has been "my work."

Dr. Anna Robertson Brown, in addressing an Alumnae Group of an Eastern University, said: "Let us lay hold of Work. There can be no happy life without strenuous, unremitting work in it, work which occupies body, heart and soul. Let us not try to escape it nor shirk it." In Dental Assisting you will find unremitting work; however, there is none other more interesting nor fascinating for a young woman with enthusiasm, energy, intelligence, and a keen desire for service. Every phase of the day's work is an adventure calling for ingenuity, tact, and wisdom. You will be hostess, book-keeper, chair assistant, laboratory technician, and psychologist.

Let us start the day with this thought from Dr. Trumbull, "Today is, for all we know, the opportunity and occasion of our lives. On what we do today may depend the success and completeness of our entire lives." With this thought can there be anything but enthusiasm for our work? Dr. George Crane says, "Enthusiasm in the Dental Office breeds Success."

The reception door is opened, our day's work begins. Is the reception room in order and clean? Remember the adage, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." Has the maid done her work well? Even so, your personal touch is necessary to give the room a little

more appeal. Rearrange the magazines—which, of course, are current—adjust the draperies, blinds, and windows. A growing plant adds to the warmth of the room, and fresh flowers if possible. Perhaps your doctor is a horticulturist at heart and grown them, but you will have pleasure in arranging them. The subject of "Flower Arrangement" is a fascinating one. Much has been said about the reception room, for it is there the patient receives her first impression of your office. I well remember the one in the first office when I began my career—long room, gray walls, no floor covering, no pictures—just stacks of old books and papers and chairs from the attic. Did he need an Assistant? I was his first one, anyway. If you do not like your reception room now, make it as cozy and comfortable as possible. In a short time you will learn "how to handle people" (remember how you could work Dad?) and make your doctor realize the need for new decorations. Do not be too hasty in condemning his taste; remember, he is a Smart Fellow.

The operatory now demands immediate attention—the hour for the first appointment is drawing near. Did you ever see such an interesting place, with so many fascinating gadgets? Weren't you lost your first day? I was. Do not get discouraged; it will take years to familiarize yourself with your duties in that one room. The subject will never be old, always new, with your doctor changing his ideas frequently. One *must*, for the operating room is "a place for everything with everything in its place." The doctor will not want to play hide and seek every day—your hiding and his seeking the instruments.

At first glance, you will notice the appearance of the room—clean cur-

tains, clean chair covers, fresh linen on the head rest and at the lavatory, proper ventilation. Drat that maid! She didn't dust the base of the dental chair; she never brushes the foot rest, nor cleans the porcelain top of the cabinet. So many little things that your eagle, critical eye must observe and take care of hurriedly. Now you must give some attention yourself before that patient arrives.

Your appearance and that of your doctor must be immaculate. How the appearance of the assistant and the dentist has changed in these twenty years! My first uniform was a Hoover apron, frequently worn over my dress in the winter time and spreading to show my petticoat in summer. Have individual uniforms with long sleeves and a becoming neck-line. Do not follow the line of least resistance and use gowns from the linen supply; they are never properly laundered, and invariably one day your uniform is too large and too long, the next day too small and too tight. Your hair should be neatly and becomingly arranged. Perhaps your doctor would not object to a cap. They do give you a more professional air. Members of the American Dental Assistants Association use their official cap. I know you will become a member soon. I will mention the benefits of that later. Did you notice your nails? Red or dark nail polish is taboo, and one of my doctor's pet aversions. Well-groomed hands are essential. Do not forget to polish and clean those white shoes. As a high school girl, you thought your social standing was rated higher if your saddle oxfords never met the white polish. Not so in your office—your shoes and laces must be white.

If Dr. Jones has not been accustomed to changing from street clothes to professional attire, encourage him to do so. His patients may be allergic. One morning, some years ago, my doctor came in too late to make a complete change, so slipping into his fresh operating coat, the patient was asked in. A moment or two after he made his

appearance in the operating room, the patient started sneezing, then said, "Doctor, have you been around any horses?" Well, it developed that he had been out admiring his new saddle horse which explained his late arrival. Was his face red! He was wearing the same trousers he had worn to the barn. Believe me, I haven't had any further trouble with him about a complete change of clothing. A little thing, but we cannot be careless in our appearance. Remember, the first impression is what you see.

The telephone rings—one shoe on, the other off, but you must answer, answer—it rings again—you are impatient—but stop. The telephone is the voice of your office. It must be pleasant and intelligent and courteous. That telephone call may be the "occasion of your life." At the other end of the wire is a new personality, and opportunity to make a new friend for yourself and your doctor. Guard carefully against quick answers and improper inflections of your voice. Pay close attention to the voice of the person calling and make written notes of names and always end the conversation with a pleasant "thank you."

The gong sounds, announcing the arrival of Mrs. Smith, who has the first appointment, or perhaps a new patient, a newcomer to your city who has been referred to you. Now you are a hostess, pleasing, confident, and tactful. Here you will use all your gracious charm and naturalness. If the person calling is the one whom you are expecting, all that is necessary to say will be, "Good morning, Mrs. Smith." Do not forget to call the patient's name; it is flattering to have one's name remembered. You should consult your appointment book before entering the reception room. That person may be a stranger; if so, tactfully ascertain his name and business. It may be he is just another salesman—stationery, wax, or what-have-you. Do not forget, however, that his business is all important to him, so do be courteous. He may some day need your doctor's services.

When a new patient is seated in the chair, an introduction to the doctor will save any embarrassment. The patient is the important one, so call his name first, "Mr. Brown, this is Dr. Jones." There are few exceptions to this rule. In your effort to be friendly and make your patients comfortable, do not be intrusive or intimate. There is a difference between dignified cordiality and aggressive friendliness.

Your duties as secretary will be many—enough for one person alone in a busy office. You must make all appointments with a knowledge of the work in progress, so as to allot sufficient time for the operation and not crowd your doctor. Keeping patients waiting too long is bad on everyone's nerves. Keep a recall list and use it promptly. The patient is checking on you and will tell you about it if you are late. However, ask the patient's permission to place her name there. You will receive, post, and bank all monies, check, pay, and post all office expenditures and keep correct professional records. You will mail statements and write thank-you letters for referred patients. Consult your doctor as to his preference whether these should be written or typed. Personally, I like the written statement best. All letters pertaining to his professional affairs should be typed with carbon copies filed for reference.

To be accurate with professional records, you must learn much about teeth and anatomy, the surfaces of the teeth, mesial, distal, lingual, buccal, occlusal, and types of fillings. The record in your office may be letters or numerals, but you will have to be familiar with them. I like to use different colored markings for different types of restorations. Too, I have found it easier to take every patient's chart out of the file at the beginning of the day's work and keep them conveniently near during the operating procedure of the day.

In 1925, a new machine was installed in our office—the X-ray. An-

other opportunity to make myself more valuable to my doctor. I was thrilled when he entrusted me with the responsibility of making the radiograms, which is permissible in our state, and had me take a course from one of the nation's leading radiodontists. The mysteries revealed by that machine and later in the dark room are always interesting, every patient's picture presenting a mounting correctly, and filing completely interesting. Do keep a small flashlight in the dark room, as many times you will need to find a file dropped while developing. An interval clock will save you many minutes of just waiting.

Every film should be mounted with patient's name, date of exposure, by whom referred, and filed with the patient's record, or alphabetically if a separate file is used. As you become more familiar with anatomy and the reading of the radiograms, do not forget you are not the doctor, and in no way should offer any interpretation of the film or diagnosis. You may show how a filling is revealed more dense than the enamel, or the pulp chamber, if the patient is interested. The film manufacturers will be glad to mail you periodicals on the progressive ideas in radiography and manuals on technique for various exposures that will be helpful. Keep them: you may need to make a picture of your big toe, using an extra oral film and not know the required exposure.

The laboratory, the dump room of all dental offices, has always been my problem, yet I am happier there for I adore making a mess. Pouring models, making base plates, setting up teeth in correct occlusion, vulcanizing dentures, especially acrylics, takes me back to childhood and my mud pie days. Taking a wax pattern for a crown or inlay and hoping to bring forth a perfect casting calls for all my powers of careful technique. Do not be discouraged if you fail at first—even the dentist fails sometimes. You will never lose that feeling of uncertainty when you melt the gold nor the

pride of accomplishment when you have a perfect casting that brings commendation from your employer. In your laboratory do not have, as one doctor said, "A place for everything—one drawer." Keep this room as clean and neat as possible. Neatly label your study models and file them in an accessible place.

As you become more efficient in your office, you will have learned much about medicaments, their names and uses. A study of "Materia Medica" or a "Dental Formulary" will help you many times. Keep your bottles neatly labeled in the operating cabinet and in storage space.

The purchasing of supplies will soon be delegated to you, so study them carefully. There are hundreds of little things used every day that must be kept on hand ready for use. Learn the prices and, if possible, be economical by buying in quantities. Know the types of materials used and their manufacturers. Be a friend to their representatives; believe me, they can be one to you, giving you instruction on the correct way to use their materials. The doctor doesn't often take time to show you these things, yet expects you to know.

There are so many important things I want to tell you, but this should interest you. In your city is a dental assistants' group. Interest yourself in that. They have so much to offer a young girl starting in the profession. Study courses in first aid, psychology, dental anatomy, sterilization, and many other subjects of vital interest and importance to you. They will at times present clinics on care of instruments, care of hypodermic syringes and needles, surgical dressings, silicates, proper ways of mixing amalgams and cements, how to properly care for dental equipment and so many other subjects that will help you to be more efficient. THE DENTAL ASSISTANT, the journal of the American Dental Assistants Association, will come to you with your membership. It contains so many helpful suggestions and articles that will

be inspirational and educational. If you give your best, then the best will come back to you.

Never lose an opportunity to study and read. Every week articles are published in dental journals and come to your office that will aid you and broaden your vision and knowledge of dentistry and dental health. Then you will be an intelligent, informed, and interesting person, invaluable to any dentist and appreciated by the doctor for whom you work.

So this has been my work and I am still enthusiastic. Now it is your work. I hope you will always feel as I do about it and Henry Van Dyke expresses it so fittingly:

"This is my work, my blessing, not my doom
Of all who live, I am the ore by whom
This work can best be done in the right way.

Then shall I see it not too great nor small
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers:
Then shall I, cheerful, greet the laboring
hours,

And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall
At eventide, to play and love and rest
Because I know for me 'My Work' is Best."

418 Medical Arts Bldg.
Birmingham, Alabama.

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Mrs. C. E. Walters, who passed away May 28, 1941. She was assistant to her husband, Dr. Walters. She was sincere in every deed, willing to cooperate, and indeed a loyal worker. She was loving and kind and most considerate. We always thought of her as our "Guardian Angel."

We of the Sioux Falls Dental Assistants Association have lost a loyal friend and will miss her terribly.

God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through;
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest from labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfading sympathy, undying love.

—Unknown.

Sioux Falls Dental Assts. Assn.

THE MANAGING OF THE CHILD PATIENT

(Presented before the Minnesota Dental Hygienists and Assistants Association, by
DR. H. C. WITTICH, St. Paul, Minn., February 26, 1941)

WHATEVER may be their secret of success in the managing of Child Patients by various "child specialists," whether by the use of applied psychology or just good common sense and kindness, it is my belief that the secret lies in the methods employed to create a childlike atmosphere between the hygienist or assistant, the dentist, and the child.

The dental hygienist or assistant has her very definite part in creating such an atmosphere. Up to a certain point the entire responsibility rests with your group. This "certain point" about which I speak is reached at the time the dentist is ready to proceed with the actual dental operations. Even at this time your responsibility has not been entirely discharged. However, your conscientiousness in carrying out your part of the responsibility prior to the time the dentist "takes over" is of utmost importance and cannot be stressed too strongly.

Many factors may be considered in the relationship of the dental hygienist or assistant to the child patient. The sequence in which these are going to be brought to your attention does not necessarily determine the degree of their importance.

It has always been my belief that the dentist's character and personal appearance play a very important role in the managing of children patients. In like manner, character and personal appearance of the dental hygienist or assistant are involved.

It has been said by a very wise man, "What you are speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you are saying." Character will, to some extent, be indicated by personal appearance. Your neatness of dress and hair, your facial expression, are the characteristics which impress the child patient. And by "facial expression" I do not mean to infer what may be externally applied; but what I do want to stress is that pleasant, attractive countenance and bearing that radiate from within. It is in your power to decide what attitude you will take—whether a disinterested, moody disposition, or one of genuine cheerfulness and friendliness.

Many children coming into a dental office for the first time are impressed at once by the expression on the face of the receptionist. Exhibit a feeling of friendliness and kindness. Let your expression be pleasing, and the first step toward winning your patient has begun.

Your tone of voice may also be a decided asset in winning the child patient. Have you ever heard someone say, "It is not *what* she said, but *how* she said it that made me

angry?" These young patients often believe that they are to encounter some sort of a "grizzly bear" and should they be welcomed by a stern facial expression and harsh voice, all they will need to make it come true is to see something jump out at them from around some corner. But let the dental hygienist or assistant greet them with a soft, pleasing voice and a cheerful smile, and their entire attitude toward dentistry may be changed. There perhaps may be a time when it will be necessary to speak sternly to some child, but I question if such would be needed as they are greeted in the reception room.

Making appointments for children patients is of greater importance than may first appear. Certain information is necessary. Generally most appointments are made by their parents or some adult in the family. The conversation reveals the last name and the fact that they wish an appointment for the child or children as the case may be. Before a definite time is stated for the appointment, two facts should be ascertained—one, the child's first or given name, and two, the age or school grade.

Securing the child's first name is important, for in checking over the day's appointments the dentist can familiarize himself with the children's given names and you, also, will be able to call him by name when he is greeted for the first time by you in your office. Children feel very proud and grown-up when they are called by name by one who to them is an apparent stranger. They are usually rather mystified by it, and before they can figure it out, are extending friendly overtures to you. The age or school grade of the child should also be taken into consideration when the first appointment is made. Most dentists agree that children of certain school grades, especially the younger children, should have appointments at that time of the day which is most conducive to satisfactory work for the child; for example, all pre-school children should be taken care of at least by early afternoon, and so on. With the knowledge of the patient's age, appointments can be made accordingly. Not only will the age help determine the time of appointment, but also the length of the appointment. Pre-school children find it difficult to sit for the length of time that would be given an older child; and so, with this knowledge in mind, you will be saving valuable time for your employer. Therefore, remember that the name and age of the child should be secured, unless voluntarily given.

The reception room of a dental office is an important factor to the dentist who serves

children. If you are employed by one who specializes in serving only the child patient, what I am going to say may be of little value to you, for the atmosphere is created to a great extent in the construction and furnishings of the entire office and reception rooms. However, should your work in that office be given over to general practice which serves children as well as adults, there are certain preparations that can be made to bring about a feeling of friendliness for the child. Here is one definite opportunity of gaining the friendship and interest of the child by placing something especially for their use. In one corner of the reception room may be placed a child's table, chairs, books familiar to children, simple toys which may be readily cleaned, and adequate lighting in this corner. These need not consume a great amount of space nor be overly expensive. With originality on your part in the arrangement of this equipment, selecting proper reading material and toys, you can do a great deal to surround the child patients with a friendly, congenial atmosphere.

I am sure it is much easier for an adult to be entertained by glancing through books especially for children, than it is for a child to try to fathom current adult magazines. If it is impossible to provide a child's table and chairs in your office, have stored conveniently away some children's books, toys, or something with which they may be entertained while in the reception room awaiting their turn.

Experience has tended to show me that children who come for dental services may be classified in three distinct groups. Each group requires its method of management, but as there is an overlapping in these groups, there must, necessarily, be an overlapping of the methods employed in management. The groups to consider are the pre-school child, the adolescent child, and that group between the two which I will term the junior child.

(a) THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD.

A few suggestions have been given heretofore in the consideration of this child which may be applied as management. There are, however, other facts which should be brought to your attention for consideration. Occasionally, it is best with this group of pre-school children, and even some children up to six or seven years of age, to make arrangements with the parent to leave them entirely alone at the time of their first or second appointment. This is especially suggested for those children who have been accustomed to depending solely on their parents for practically every move they make, and the only way confidence in others can be established is to place them in your care alone. Should you be called upon to care for such a case, your task will be to try and transfer that dependency which they feel toward their parents to you.

(b) JUNIOR CHILD.

There are a few children found in this group who will need some attention in an effort to bring them to a proper state for dental services. The stubborn child is generally found in this age group. These children refuse to allow the dentist to do any actual work, squirm about in the chair, and often let their hands and feet fly in all directions. Your assistance in helping to control the child is needed in cases of this type. After the child has become quiet and subdued and is convinced that he is there for a purpose, your disciplinary services are usually no longer needed.

(c) ADOLESCENT CHILD.

This child often needs someone to appeal to his pride, for many are negligent in the care of their teeth. This service you can render by the use of models, casts, pictures or interesting stories relating to mouth hygiene. Up to the present time, I have mentioned only once how you can help in the managing of the child patient in the operating room. The reason for this is that I have some very definite beliefs regarding the managing of children in the dental chair. If the dental hygienist or assistant carries out all the requirements so far mentioned, it is my belief that after the child has been placed in the dental chair, the future managing rests with the dentist. To be more specific, let us consider types of children, regardless of age grouping.

THE NORMAL CHILD

This child is classified as "normal" for he generally gives little or no trouble at any time. We are able to complete practically all dental operations with his fullest cooperation. Surely, outside of knowing what instruments and materials your employer may want, there is no further assistance needed with this child.

THE STUBBORN CHILD.

We have previously discussed this type of child. However, there is one very important point which I wish to mention in further caring for our so-called little "stubborn friend." They require a great deal of talking to and this, I believe, should be done by the dentist himself, for if both of you try to influence the child, he will become only the more confused and will be harder than ever to handle. Let me, however, again mention that your assistance in the physical control of the patient is valuable.

THE TIMID OR FEARFUL CHILD.

It is very obvious that this type of child, who is fearful of everything and everyone, would be fearful of the dentist. The respon-

(Continued on page 111)

DEFENSE AGAINST THE GERM BLITZ

(Winning paper presented by ALICE MCGLOCKLIN, Memphis, Tenn., at the Twelfth Annual Meeting, Tennessee State Dental Assistants Association, May 12, 1941.)

TODAY, the interest of every thinking person is centered upon the events of nations at war, and the ultimate results that loom ahead. Newspapers, radios, motion-picture newsreels—all are constant streams of information bringing the latest developments, news of desperate struggle, devastation, and ruin.

Peoples all over the world are alert to the eminent danger, whether realized or threatened, and it is well that this concern is present; however, it must be remembered that, although warring men and machines of war take many lives, the fifth columnists, the enemy bacteria, are still the master strategists, for no enemy is more deadly than one that attacks from within. Man has made an effort to conquer this foe for ages, but it is only recently that noticeable progress has been made.

It is our duty to humanity—and a vital necessity—to strengthen our preparedness program to defend our bodies against the invasion of this dangerous "General Germ" and his ravaging hordes of bacteria. Focus your attention on these "Body Nazis" for a moment.

At the very foot of the ladder of life, simplest in structure and smallest in size of knowing living things, there is a group of secret enemies known as bacteria. These tiny, though powerful, germs are the smallest living things with which science has definite acquaintance; yet, small as they are, they hold the power to destroy human life.

We are prone to minimize the danger of germs in our everyday life, as witness the college boy's remark, "Germs are spread by kissing, but how I love the little devils!" We must go armed at all times to resist these dreaded enemies. One of the major battlegrounds is the dental office, and the dental assistant stands as the first line

of defense between the patients and these secretive destroyers.

Consider the girl in white as she faces this hidden enemy in the course of a day. In what form does she encounter the seemingly insignificant, so small yet deadly foe? "Preparedness" is our watch word—thorough asepsis, sterilizing, and potent germicides are our means of defense, thereby safeguarding the health and life of all humans against these deadly enemies who carry on an everlasting blitzkrieg of destruction.

It is estimated that dentists use about 6,000 different articles. If these articles or instruments are not sterile, the patient is subject to a possibility of infection.

Anthony van Leeuwenhoek was the man to first discover microbes. In 1683, he described bacteria which he found in matter taken from between his own teeth. The mouth has always been the most serious portal of entry for this enemy and the place where we must build our greatest defense. The means by which bacteria may enter the mouth are far too numerous to be discussed in detail in this paper; however, I shall list a few of the methods, which we as dental assistants can prevent.

To give you an idea of the size of these antagonists we are dealing with, I quote from a book by Dr. Stanhope Bayne-Jones: "Suppose the 25,000 soldiers of a modern American infantry division were formed up in a single rank with an allowance of 18 inches for each man. This line would be about $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles long. Suppose, next, that some omnipotent general officer from headquarters should command 'Cwindle,' and that at the word of command each soldier would shrink to the width of an average bacterium, 1 micron, and close up on his neighbor. Their line would then be about 1 inch long."

You can readily see how these great myriads of invading microbes play havoc with the welfare of humanity. We have the word of the Mayos that human life can be extended ten years through dentistry alone, and with our skill improved to see that this service is rendered, we are helping to build a defense against this mighty legion of bacteria. It is a challenge to us that we cannot fail to heed.

Remember the chair in the office and protect this with disposable head rest covers. The operator's coat and the assistant's uniform should be immaculate at all times, thereby reducing the possibility of transmitting infection. The water syringe, the chip blower, the transilluminating bulbs, and the air syringe may often be neglected in the course of a busy day, and there we lose much ground to the invaders. Another fertile field is the cup from which the patient drinks. If paper cups are not used, be positive that the glasses are sterilized before placing them before the patients. If the patient's mouth is sprayed with some good antiseptic before beginning work, the bacterial count will be greatly reduced. The straight handpiece, as well as the contra-angle, needs to be freed, each time it is used, by sterilization, from any germs that might be lurking there.

All the operative instruments must be sterilized before and after use. Just before the instruments are to be used, place them in a sterilizer, half filled with water, and boil them for a period of ten minutes. A little sodium bicarbonate or a small amount of green soap put into the water will prevent the instruments from rusting or spotting. The effectiveness of the entire operating procedure depends upon a perfect sterilization.

In an article published in the November issue of last year of the *Canadian Public Health Journal*, Dr. Ronald Hare said that the mouth transmits the majority of germs and not the nose; therefore, the wearing of a mask while working at the chair is a safe-

guard. However, if the operator will refrain from speaking or coughing when in the neighborhood of the patient, the masks would not be absolutely essential. Although it is an impossibility to sterilize the mouth completely, all precautions taken to lower the bacterial count will in turn lessen the possibility of serious infection.

Particular care should be given to syringes, needles, sutures, surgical blades, and similar instruments. They should be absolutely sterile and kept in alcohol until ready to be used. Of course, all cotton or gauze that is used in any way in connection with the mouth must be sterile and kept in a place where it will remain that way.

The patients will feel a greater confidence in seeing your careful preparation for defense in their behalf while they are seated in the chair. By letting them note your change of the bracket trays, towels, handpieces, cups, and other objects, they will feel safe in knowing their protection is holding fast against the germ invasion. Always scrub your hands thoroughly before handling any instrument. After an extraction, if a sterile gauze pack is placed over the socket before the saliva is allowed to get into it, this will hasten the clotting of the blood and the healing process will be speeded up as a result.

After instruments have been used in an operation, they should be thoroughly scrubbed with green soap and lukewarm water, taking special care to clean out effectively all joints, grooves, or other places on the instruments which may harbor blood or adhering body tissue. After this is done, they should be thoroughly rinsed in a hot one percent solution of Lysol. Now the instruments should be boiled in plain water for a period of three minutes, after which they should be carefully dried and polished, and then put away in the instrument case. All dulled instruments should be sharpened before they are put away.

Although the tooth enamel is the hardest substance in the human body,

the tooth is the only part of the body that will not heal itself. The blood stream maintains an armed patrol of white blood cells to insure freedom of the channels from predatory microbes. The cells are police, judge, jury, and jail all in one. They arrest, engulf, digest, and destroy the criminal germs; however, the tooth is not so fortunate. Therefore, we must double our efforts in caring for and preparing instruments that go into cavity preparations and every article which the dentist uses for this purpose. Burs, stones, discs, and mandrels should be cleaned and placed in cold sterilizing solution for the required amount of time, then replaced in bur box or cabinet drawer after use on each patient.

You all remember the story about the dentist who asked the patient if he ever brushed his teeth and the patient answered, "Why should I? There's no hair on them." The dentist replied, "Well, I didn't know; I see they're parted in the middle." A mouth well kept is less susceptible to decay and germs; and, although it is an old superstition that if your teeth decay on the side you will marry well, it is still much better that they do not decay at all. The mouth is the symbol of endearment. People offer their lips to those dearest to them in the world. Let us help our patients to keep theirs clean, sweet, fresh, wholesome mouths.

If we fight with all our energy and ability with the forces that we have, against the malicious marauders, scores of people that we are privileged to serve each day will go from our offices into lives made happier and healthier by our protection.

And the dental assistant—"The Girl in White"—will stand as the emblem of defense for strength and fortification against an ever vicious invading army of invisible killers, and with the serene knowledge and satisfaction that she is guarding and preserving the welfare of humanity.

938 Commerce Title Building,

110

WESTWARD HO!

The Houston District Dental Assistants are spending most of their waking hours, and part of their sleeping ones, thinking up ways to entertain their visitors during the convention in October. As a Houstonian of one year's standing, having moved here from Illinois last April, it is a pleasure to watch the ball of "true southern hospitality," as we've all heard it described, started rolling.

The main idea in each girl's mind is to have everyone enjoy herself, and to that end these dental assistants are "trotting" out their menus of mammy-fried chicken, beaten biscuits, barbecued fish, shrimp, and crab, to say nothing of all other seafood, surrounding it all with good old-fashioned Texan friendliness and a keen sense of enjoyment of life that seems to keep Texans in general, and Houstonians in particular, forever young.

No matter how cosmopolitan the city is s'posed to be, it still has a tang of the West about it—maybe it's seeing cowboy boots and ten-gallon hats on the downtown streets and hearing everyone talk about the "wild horse races," "really mean steer riding," "calf roping," and all other features of the neighboring rodeos in the fall.

Then there are the oil wells, too, to say nothing of the oil men, those glamour-clad creatures who seem to wander around with a bewitched rod, finding oil in back yards. It's really a sight to behold—coming back in the afternoon from a day spent swimming or fishing in the gulf at Galveston, stopping by the San Jacinto monument, shrine of Texas heroes; and in the late evening going up in the 567-foot monument in the elevator and looking down over the vast ribbons of road, the winding ship channel, and seeing the oil derricks silhouetted against the Texas-blue sky with the gas flares of the active wells flaming all around.

—E. HOLLOWAY, Pub. Chm.
A.D.A.A. Convention.
DENTAL ASSISTANT

The Managing of the Child Patient

(Continued from page 107)

sibility of serving this child rests with the dentist; therefore, it becomes his duty to help that child establish the needed confidence in the dentist himself. Your presence in assisting as mentioned for the normal type of child helps as well with this timid or fearful type, but your advice as to what is to be done for the child, or if it is liable to be painful, should not be offered.

There is, no doubt, overlapping by the dental hygienist or assistant and the dentist, in the managing of children, but this overlapping should be very small, and should serve only to emphasize the fact that all are cooperating for the welfare of the child.

There is one more valuable service which

you may render in your capacity as a dental assistant or hygienist, and I particularly refer to conducting contests, offering rewards, sending various types of greeting cards and making check-up appointments. I am not going into detail concerning these suggestions, but merely mention them, for each has its value and can be carried out best by you.

May I say in closing that those of us who serve children have a great responsibility and privilege. If I have been able to awaken within you a strong desire to serve children better, then our time spent here together this morning has been well worth while.

490 Lowry Medical Arts Bldg.,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

This is the hardest lesson in life to learn—and the most important. If it could be learned by everybody the machinery of human affairs would move more smoothly. To respect the rights of others is fundamental. It starts at the very basis of justice in all the dealings of life. It is elemental, because it is the first law in the intercourse between man and man. Why do we find it so difficult to learn this lesson? It is all answered in a single word—it is selfishness. The man who comes the nearest to getting selfishness out of his heart comes the nearest to being a full-fledged man.

To put yourself in the other man's place is the one sublime achievement. To sink self in the common cause and realize that you are only one atom in the great moving mass of humanity is to get the right perspective, and to place your feet on the solid rock. When a man deals unjustly with you, stop and think. Try to see his point of view, and mayhap you will find that he is not so unjust as you had thought. Even if he is unjust give him the benefit of believing that he does not realize it. If necessary to correct a wrong that he has done, approach the problem with charity and loving kindness, and not with a bludgeon in your hand. To knock a man down is not to convert him to your way of thinking, but to give him the pretext for knocking you down in return. Neither one is benefitted thereby and both are injured. If a man will not reason with you, let him alone. If you cannot convert him do not condemn him. If you cannot make him think as you think, remember that every man is given the inalienable right to think for himself, and you should not be insistent in forcing your point of view on others.

You cannot reason with a venomous reptile, but you can respect his rights and keep out of his way. If he gets in your way and impedes the progress of a legitimate pursuit in which you are engaged, you may be obliged to suppress him for the common good, but you should do it for the good and not for vengeance. To kill a snake through wanton malice is to suffer defeat of principle, and to acknowledge the inferiority of your soul. It is not well to permit yourself to be bitten—the equity of justice does not call for that—but better be bitten a thousand times than to go about through life ruthlessly tramping on the rights of others. You may be bitten and survive, but you cannot save your own soul if you wilfully and persistently force your opinionated beliefs on your fellowman.

Remember, you were not born to sway the world. You will do well if you sway the one small sphere in which you revolve yourself, and you may consider

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THE DENTAL ASSISTANT

JULY-AUGUST, 1941

A JOURNAL FOR DENTAL ASSISTANTS DEVOTED TO THEIR INTERESTS AND EDUCATION

Bi-Monthly publication of the A.D.A.A. Journal for Dental Assistants Devoted to their Education and Interests and to the Efficient Conduct of Dental Offices. Publication of all statements, opinions, or data, is not to be considered as an endorsement of same by journal or its publishers.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

INTERLUDE

WITH the advent of Summer comes the justifiable desire for an intermission—a surcease from the year's routine. Thus viewing life in a new perspective, we seek diversion.

Midsummer is the height of the season for vacations. Most of the societies discontinue their regular monthly meetings, educational programs, and rounds of association activities during the months of June, July, and August. This, then, means that the groups are more or less inactive for the summer months, and gives the members a change, and a change in itself is a vacation.

Disbanding for three months does not mean that we are in a state of lethargy, but it affords opportunities to enjoy many other diversions. It gives the members a chance to do some of the things which time does not permit during the busy months of regular educational programs.

It is in the summertime that we can follow the urge for indulgence in our favorite sports. This individual urge for the out-of-doors can be extended to the organized groups in an effort to maintain contacts during the summer months. Activities, such as picnics, swimming parties, tennis, golf, steak fries, boat rides, and camping parties, may accomplish a two-fold purpose, by keeping the group together in spirit and enthusiasm and by offering as a secondary aim the opportunity to swell the Delegates' Fund and the Juliette A. Southard Birthday Party Fund.

Play together during June, July, and August, and this will insure your society of a happy, enthusiastically working membership to resume regular association activities in September.

When the summer makes its exit, many will still be vacationing, for they know that "the more we get together the happier are we" and are saving a portion of their time for the fun in Houston. Make your reservations now and be in attendance at the grand finale at the Texas State Hotel!

EDUCATION AND THE DENTAL ASSISTANT

"Education in its broadest sense must be the background of dentistry, and in order that it may function to its highest capacity as a branch of medicine and a vital part of health service, dentistry must have intelligent and capable assistance."

Education is therefore the foundation upon which has been built the American Dental Assistants Association. The A.D.A.A. is built up of many component and constituent societies, and through these groups we continue to acquire greater knowledge of our duties. That is, we exchange our ideas on every phase of dental assisting, in the forms of practical clinics, lectures, articles, and papers.

In an effort to secure more material of an educational nature, to be published in future issues of our Journal, a letter has been written to each district trustee in the A.D.A.A., urging her to contact the societies in her district, with the request that each society submit a given number of articles or papers, each to cover an educational subject. These articles are to be submitted to the trustee, and she, in turn, will forward them to Marie Shaw for future publication. A list of suggested topics has been prepared and forwarded to each trustee.

We have a two-fold plan in suggesting the above idea: first, that all A.D.A.A. members may benefit by our practical and educational text, and second, that all A.D.A.A. societies may be given an opportunity to contribute to our Journal. For THE DENTAL ASSISTANT is their publication.

We urge that each society give this Educational theme wholehearted support.

VIRGINIA SCHENCK,
Contributing Editor.

YOUR NEW ADDRESS, PLEASE!

Changes of address must be reported to the Subscription Manager promptly, in order to assure continued receipt of issues. Since February 1, eighty-eight copies of the Journal have been returned to this office unclaimed, and eighty-eight names have been removed from the mailing list. The Journal is sent out as fourth class mail and cannot be forwarded, so each return costs the A.D.A.A. two cents. This may seem a small amount, but when there are a number of returns, they all add up. So, if the eighty-eight girls who have had a change of address since their 1941 dues were paid will notify me before the twenty-fifth of this month, they will receive their Journals for the remainder of the year, as well as the back issues.

MARY ROMER, Sub. Mgr.

Respect the Rights of Others

(Continued from page 111)

it a triumph if you succeed in controlling your own individuality. Men will accord you your own rights more readily if you respect theirs. There is room in the world for all, but he who tries to crowd others off the earth is quite likely to be pushed over the brink himself. It is the inexorable law of "like begets like," which when once learned as it applies to our relations with each other, will bring about the moral millenium. Think of your fellowman as if he were your own brother in blood, and accord to him the same right to live and have his being as you demand for yourself. In this way, and this way only, can you move on into that higher achievement which is the ultimate of all our earthly efforts.

—CHARLES NELSON JOHNSON.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

THINKING RIGHT

(Presented Before the Alabama State D.A.A., April 8, 1941.)

THINKING RIGHT? THINKING RIGHT?—Every day, as I grow older, I feel more and more humble and reverent about God's world, and about my span of days in God's time, and about the very space I occupy in this world.

THINKING RIGHT? Every day, as I face new responsibilities, I become lost in wonder not only at the vastness of the universe but at my consciousness of that vastness.

THINKING RIGHT? I do not know that I have the right to stand before you today and discuss a subject so difficult as "Thinking Right"; for, as you already have discovered, I am no philosopher, I am no psychologist; I am merely one whose purpose and wish it is to meet my obligations within God's world so long as I may be permitted to do so. For that reason I have framed the words "Thinking Right" as a question; and I fear that only as a question am I able to frame them. For, to be very frank, I do not know what the words mean.

Nevertheless, they do arouse something within me that I should like to say, something that may reflect an idea or two of yours also. My days, like yours, are busy days; and I hope they are useful ones as well. As I go about among people and study them, I realize that dozens of the men and women with whom I come in contact lead miserable and ineffective lives. And I believe they do so, often, for the very simple reason that they have not learned to forget; they have not learned to break free of their own pasts. Every day, with its new opportunity, serves only to remind them of the wasted chances of long ago. Let me illustrate this point with a poem by Aline Kilmer. The woman painted in it is not thinking right; she has not learned to forget.

There is a mirror in my room,
Less like a mirror than a tomb;
There are so many ghosts that pass
Across the surface of the glass.

When in the morning I arise
With circles round my tired eyes,
Seeking the glass to brush my hair,
My mother's mother meets me there.

If in the middle of the day
I happen to go by that way,
I see a smile I used to know—
My mother—twenty years ago.

But when I rise by candle light
To feed my baby in the night,
Then whitely in the glass I see
My dead child's face look out at me.

Out of that woman's tragic past stole the ghosts of her mother's mother, of her own mother, and of her dead child. And because she was unable to forget those ghosts, her own life was wretched also. Such as she should learn to bring under control her unhappy memories, not only for her own sake and her child's, but for the sake of all the other people about her.

How much better is the man pictured in another poem, one by W. H. Davies:

Who bears in mind misfortunes gone
Must live in fear of more;
The happy man whose heart is light
Gives no such shadows power.
He bears in mind no haunting past
To start his week on Monday;

No graves are written on his mind
To visit on a Sunday.
He lives his life by days, not years;
Each day's a life complete
Which every morning finds renewed
With temper calm and sweet.

That man, having learned to forget, I believe, was Thinking Right. So there are experiences in the lives of each one of us that we must put out of our memories. For if we don't, we eventually convince ourselves that we are awkward and ineffective. Those repeated memories kill our courage and our energy, and rob us of our self-esteem. After all, chance and coincidence are powerful elements in life and very often are responsible for those experiences which many of us brood over as being due to our own mistakes. Let us think right by learning to forget, to forget all the unkindnesses that have been shown us by other

people, all the slights and sarcastic comments that have been made to us and about us. Above all, let us break ourselves of the habit of speculation as to what would have happened to us if we had only acted differently on a certain occasion. IF—IF—IF! A very small word, yet so often a very disastrous one. Many memories are dangerous, and we must control them. Let us try to believe that, when we live for the best and act for the best, God works in us just as He works within the vastness of His universe, that He leads us along the right path and to the right destiny. Such a belief as that can brighten a dark and hazardous road, a road which so often will lead to happiness and ultimate service to our human kind. Let us learn to forget as a step toward thinking right.

I would not have you think, however, that I subscribe wholly to living in a land of Lotus Eaters, to drinking from the well of forgetfulness; for doing so would be as disastrous as dwelling in the past forever. As I have said, my days, like yours, are busy days, and useful ones, I hope. As they come and go before me, I look at what they bring to me and to the world at large; and truly I think, just as you do, that never before in the history of God's world has there been so much misery, of human wretchedness, of famine, widespread as there is today. Truly, the Four Horsemen of the "Book of Revelation" ride with a devastation and a terror with which they have never ridden heretofore. It is difficult to believe with Browning that "God's in His heaven, all's well with the world." And do you remember Miss Millay's lovely poem entitled "God's World"? For a long time I have loved that poem. But now the substance of it fills me with doubt. Let me recall it to you in part.

O World, I cannot hold thee close enough;
Thy winds, thy wide gray skies!
Thy mists that roll and rise;
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag
And all but cry with color! That gaunt crag
To crush; To lift the lean of that black bluff
World, world, I cannot get thee close enough!

And she concludes with these three lines:

Lord, I do fear
Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year.
My soul is all but out of me,—let fall
No burning leaf; prithee, let no bird call.

In ecstasy at the World's great beauty and perfection, with Miss Millay, like all of us, I have often felt that I could not hug that World tightly enough within my arms. That time is past. Right now, with the whole of the world undergoing the horrors of War, I fear I should not want, if I could, to hold it close.

And every day, as I grow older, I feel more and more humble and incredulous about that world. And being, as I have said, no philosopher, and certainly no authority on world politics, I cannot discuss, with even a meager satisfaction or competence, the horror and tragedy that shake the world today. And to be frank again, I do not understand it. Being of democratic principles and humanitarian instincts, the fact that over the whole face of the world today man is killing man, women and children are being murdered by the process of slow starvation or by the infinitely more merciful means of millions of tons of bombs—that fact terrifies me and fills me with an agonizing doubt, so that, like many of you, emotion comes very near to taking the place of rational thinking within me. In that respect, I cannot ask myself the question, "Am I thinking right?" Rather, I should ask myself, "Am I thinking?" Would it not be the easier thing for me to forget the horrible present as well as those unfortunate experiences in the past? Would it not be better, too, and saner? Should I not try to escape a rosy dream world of romance and happy imaginings? I cannot solve the world's problems; I cannot cure its ills. And I cannot always and continuously, without flinching for one instant, hour by hour, minute by minute, face the terrible and stark reality of the world today; some escape, at one time or another, is needful for one's continued life of struggle and, I hope, one's life of service to one's fellowman.

In respect to the present, I can hope to accomplish only this: I shall strive each day, as it comes along, to face the issues and problems that present themselves to me with an honest and a forthright mind. I shall not evade the unpleasant truths that assail my consciousness. I shall try to the utmost of my ability, with every nerve, every fiber, every

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Question Box

CLARA E. SMITH

1101 Medical Arts Building, Nashville, Tennessee

The possible participation of the secretary in handling the problem of collecting dental fees, as presented by the District of Columbia, at the ADAA Convention in Cleveland.

Frequently the patient experiences less embarrassment in discussing the problems of meeting past due obligations with the secretary.

The practitioner will be spared the risk of an unpleasant or embarrassing conflict with his patient.

Being relieved of this responsibility, he has more time to spend in the practice of his profession.

PREVENTIVE METHOD OF COLLECTION.

At the first appointment for examination, X-Rays and impressions for study models are usually made and a subsequent appointment made. During this interval the secretary may contact a reliable mercantile agency or credit bureau for the following information:

- (a) Financial rating.
- (b) Credit rating.

If the financial and credit rating are:

- (a) Exceptionally good—an estimate of work to be done and fee for same is quoted by the dentist and verified by the secretary.
- (b) Indicative of installment buying—an estimate of the work to be done and fee for same is quoted and (1) the budget plan is presented.

The budget plan is an arrangement with a local finance company whereby the practitioner receives immediately in cash the entire amount of the fee, less 15 percent discount, and the finance company assumes all responsibility for collection. The patient pays only the exact amount of his estimated fee with no interest charge, which is an excellent arrangement for the patient.

Or (2) an estimate of the work to be done and the fee is quoted and there is a definite record of the agreement duly signed in legal form. There is a frank discussion of the need for a cash payment and the signing of a regular note which is deposited in the bank for discount or collection.

CURATIVE METHOD OF COLLECTION.

Six months plan

- A. Work completed in April.
- B. Billed May 1st.
- C. Billed June 1st.
- D. Call June 15th. (First promise)
- E. Billed July 1st. (Notation)
- F. Call July 15th. (Second promise)
- G. Billed August 1st.
- H. Call August 15th. (6 months clearance)
- I. Legal action September 10th.

The telephone is used in preference to correspondence, because a letter can be tossed into the waste basket and not answered, but a telephone call is a person to person contact which cannot be overlooked. The patient can only tell you one of two things—that he is going to pay or that he is not going to pay. If he says he is not going to pay, you know what to do. If he promises to pay you, give him two opportunities to keep his promise. If he does not keep his promise, you know he is not to be trusted. A patient who, without a valid reason, has not paid an account within six months, may be assumed to have no intention of paying. With this method vigorous collection methods may be instituted before the account is too old to be collected.

President's Page

Thinking Right

(Continued from page 115)

muscle within my being, to face the facts, to face the facts that confront me, with the hope that I shall have the courage and the mind to think right about those facts.

I have said that I feel humble and reverent about God's world. I have said, too, that I do not understand the meaning of the words Thinking Right. Every day, I become lost in wonder at the vastness of the world, at the miracle of life, and even at my own consciousness of that vastness, that miracle of life. Thinking right? . . . Well, whatever those words may mean, I shall try to lose none of my reverence and wonder of the world. With heart and mind together, with love for my fellow-man, I shall endeavor to renew my faith in Him who made the World and gave me a place in it. I shall try thinking right not only with my mind but with my heart and soul. . . . Let us learn to forget what should be forgotten and remember and to face what should be remembered and faced.

That is all that I can do about those two words, "Thinking Right."

HELEN E. F. MEYERS.

SPECIAL INVITATION BANQUET COMMITTEE

We are particularly anxious that you start planning *now* to join us at the A.D.A.A. annual banquet, where we promise only food and fun. Invite your dentist, his family and your friends to enjoy this gala affair with us. We promise that the Lone Star banquet will be a memorable occasion as you review your visit with us in Houston. Make a note of the time and place, Tuesday evening, 7:30 o'clock, October 28, 1941, at the Houston Club. We'll be seeing you there.

THELMA PARKER, Chairman
716½ Broadway, Houston, Texas

THE A.D.A.A. PIN

It is impossible for me to state what the American Dental Assistants Association pin means to you, but I have several reasons that make me proud to wear it.

First, it does not have a design of a cult which denotes narrowness, but it has a simple little word on it, *Loyalty*, that challenges my faith, integrity, and honor in my chosen profession.

Second, it does not carry a number of a union that denotes selfishness, but it carries the two words, *Service* and *Efficiency*, which inspire me to do my work to the best of my ability at all times, so at the end of the day I can hear that still small voice say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Third, my pin does not carry an insignia of any dictatorship which means subjection, but it has *Education* engraved on it, which means freedom of speech and unlimited opportunity toward self-edification.

Every time I attach my pin to my uniform, I renew the Dental Assistant's pledge.

MARIE K. MCCOY, Chairman,
Ninth District Pin Committee.

TALKING IT OVER



(This department is under the supervision of EDNA M. JUSTICE,
631 Jenkins Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.)

GREETINGS:

Not long ago, I'd been doing a little "house-cleaning," and while putting things in order I came upon the Dental Assistant Journals which I have saved, beginning in 1933. I had, of course, to pause and glance through them. It was interesting to note the progress both in our Journal and in our Association, and to see how some members have been faithfully contributing to the success of both year after year. It was a pleasure to reread some of the articles and to again get inspiration for new activities.

It's a good thing to take time out to "put one's house in order." We thereby find time to consider where we are going, both as to ourselves and our societies; to decide which activities we should promote to keep us growing; and to add to the abundance of our lives so that we may keep the spirit of cheer and happiness reflected in those with whom we come in contact. We need a periodic check-up to see if we are keeping in step.

The goal to be reached is that of education, produced in the spirit of good fellowship, that of joyous working and living together, of furthering our knowledge and capacity for work, of helping us to solve the new problems that come to us due to constantly changing methods and trends.

In the development of skills, we have a type of investment which will always pay dividends. The dental assistant who learns as much as she possibly can so as to better understand and do her work, will have security, and will find advancement and opportunity awaiting her.

Our A.D.A.A. and local societies offer much in this respect through clinics, speakers, and study clubs. Let's plan early for the new season's activities and try to offer the very best to the members in the way of programs and entertainment. Home study groups or night school classes may be an added activity for your society.

A study of the art of conversation would prove helpful to many in our organization. Some people naturally have the gift of engaging others in conversation which proves valuable and enjoyable to both parties. Yet others must acquire this ability. Much of what we learn comes not only from our speakers, but from visiting at these meetings with our friends. Take a little time to chat with the other members of your society and show hospitality to the new members. Of course, the more interested we are in all the world about us and in its cultural activities, the more naturally will we acquire ease and poise in conversation. Happy is that society whose members have become such good friends that their meetings and friendships are definitely synonymous.

I hope the summer will make you feel refreshed and ready for the fall program.

Will be looking forward to seeing you in Houston!

VERENA STRASSBURG,
Trustee, Sixth District.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES ACT NOW!

Hotel Committee A.D.A.A.

Presidents of the affiliated societies, please note the following: Please contact your members *now* and make as many reservations as they think they will need for the Houston meeting, October 26-31, 1941. It is imperative that this be done immediately, since we cannot make blanket reservations. Cancellations can be made later, but not later than two weeks before the meeting. Address all reservations to Miss Charlotte Becraft, A.D.A., Field Secretary, Room 344, Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas. She will make your reservations at the Texas State Hotel, A. D. A. A. headquarters. If your president does not contact you, we urge the members to make their reservations direct *at once*, so you can be sure of accommodations. Prices: Single rooms, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$6; double, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8; twin beds, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10. All are with bath. Extra cots in room \$2.

MARGARET MCCONNELL,
Chairman.

WE WANT YOU!!

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT 1941

The splendid cooperation received from the board of trustees in the interest of the program makes it possible for this committee to secure the very best speakers, essayists, and clinicians available. Our five-day meeting includes the State officers' session and the "Progressive Clinic," which we hope will meet with your approval and be of real interest and benefit to each and every dental assistant in attendance.

We are planning to issue special invitations to the dentists and to our friends to attend the general meeting, progressive clinics, and banquet. Your attendance at the meeting is greatly anticipated, and it is our earnest desire that each of you make a special effort to personally invite your doctor employer to visit us during our meeting.

JULY-AUGUST, 1941

We are endeavoring to give you the best ever, so do come and get your share of it.

ABBIE PRYOR, Co-Chairman
KATHERINE HASTING, Chairman

4121 N. Wolcott Ave.
Chicago, Illinois.

HOUSTON HAS A DATE WITH YOU

Every closing day brings us nearer to the *convention date* we have with you in *Houston* October 26-31. The local arrangements committee has left nothing undone to make this meeting one that will live long in the memory of those attending. Our desire is that this meeting will be so outstanding that all those present will go home fired with the resolve to do their part in promoting the onward march of the American Dental Assistants Association.

The program from beginning to end promises to be educational and inspirational.

But—let it not be said that fun galore is not in store for you! Hints dropped here and there by the banquet committee assure me that this will be an event that you will not soon forget. Then the luncheon sponsored by the Texas State Dental Assistants and the Clinicians' Luncheon promises to be highlights of the convention.

Headquarters will be the Texas State Hotel. Please make all reservations through Miss Charlotte Becraft, ADA field secretary, 344 Rice Hotel.

The attendance of our members in large numbers is all that is needed to make this convention one of the very best. We are expecting *you* to keep your date with us in *Houston*, where friendliness and hospitality reign supreme. If we can assist you in any manner in planning your visit you have only to write us. We are at your command.

THELMA PARKER, Convention Ch.
716½ Broadway, Houston, Tex.

JUNE MERCER, Co-Chairman
1325 Medical Arts Bldg., Houston, Tex.

LOYALTY TROPHY

The "Angelo Chiavaro Loyal Assistant Trophy" will be presented to the member of the A.D.A.A. who, having been a member of the A.D.A.A. for two years, presents the record of longest consecutive years of service with one employer. A certificate of employment, duly attested by the dentist in whose office she has been employed, giving date of original employment, and other confirming data, countersigned by a notary and by the president of the local society of which she is a member, will be required. These certificates are to be mailed to the office of the General Secretary up to October 15; thereafter they may be mailed to Helen H. Fitting, Texas State Hotel, Houston, Texas, marked "Hold for AD.A.A. Convention," or they can be turned over to Mrs. Fitting at the convention not later than Monday, October 27, 5:00 p.m. The winner must be present at the annual meeting.

HELEN H. FITTING.

REPORT

1940 Juliette A. Southard Birthday Party Committee

Total receipts for 1940.....\$503.16

HONOR ROLL

The following list is a composite of all contributions made by each State, as well as by each component society within that State. Each total must be \$10 or more in order to be included in the Honor Roll.

Northern California	\$31.31
Southern California	22.00
District of Columbia.....	33.50
Florida	15.00
Georgia	13.00
Indiana	10.00
Iowa	17.00
Kansas	47.00
Kentucky	10.00
New Orleans	10.60
Massachusetts	23.50
Michigan	17.00
Minnesota	20.00
Missouri	10.00

Nebraska	15.00
New Jersey	25.00
New York	27.25
Ohio	38.00
Pennsylvania	25.00
Tennessee	20.00
Texas	10.00
West Virginia	15.00
Wisconsin	10.10
1940 J. A. S. Birthday Party Committee	
VIRGINIA SCHENCK, Chairman	

ATTENTION, ADAAers

The 1941 Membership Drive is over but not so the spirit behind the drive. We are immensely proud of the wonderful membership increase made by each A.D.A.A. society during our drive. Let us not be downhearted if we did not win a cash prize, for there were only two, you know. Now, let's carry on as we were, for we have a goal, "4,000 Members by Houston." Remember, this year three beautiful cups and a gavel will be awarded in Houston, the first to the society showing the greatest percentage of increase in membership since the Cleveland meeting, the second to the society showing the second largest percentage of increase. A beautiful gavel will be awarded to the society coming in third, and a brand new cup to the society ranking fourth.

To attain our goal,

To win the cup

Bring new members in

And keep it up.

1941 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE,

VERONICA KENNEDY
JAYNE PACE NELSON
STELLA RANGER
MARGARET LEEDOM
VIRGINIA SCHENCK, *Chairman.*

401 Huntington Bldg.,
Miami, Florida.

EAT AND RUN

Or stay awhile and get acquainted with we Texans at the tea, to be held October 26, from four to six, at the Texas State Hotel.

FRANCES SJOWELL,
Chairman Entertainment Committee

DENTAL ASSISTANT



Secretary's Corner



By AILEEN M. FERGUSON, General Secretary,
709 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

HONOR ROLL

ALABAMA D. A. A.
MASSACHUSETTS D. A. A.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA D. A. A.
TEXAS D. A. A.
WISCONSIN D. A. A.

HONORABLE MENTION

FLORIDA D. A. A.
IOWA D. A. A.
LOUISIANA D. A. A.
NEW JERSEY D. A. A.
OHIO D. A. A.

SECRETARIES: All Clinic Questionnaires must be completed and returned to this office by July 15; Program Questionnaires are due on August 1. Kindly make sure that both of these 1941 forms have been taken care of before you leave for vacation. To be properly certified as your representatives, the dues of all delegates and alternates for the current year must be paid thirty days before the annual meeting; their names must be on record with the General Secretary as delegates not later than ten days before the annual session. Cooperate with the ADAA Hotel Committee by making your reservations soon at the Texas State Hotel.

NEW COMPONENT SOCIETIES: We extend congratulations and best wishes to:

SABINE DISTRICT D. A. A. (Texas)—President, Virginia Lau, 707 Goodhue Bldg., Beaumont; Secretary, Holly Wilson, Goodhue Bldg., Beaumont.

SAN ANTONIO D. A. A. (Texas)—President, Martha Miliken, 1111 Medical Arts Bldg., San Antonio; Secretary, Lucille Sweeney, 1202 Nix Professional Bldg., San Antonio.

WACO D. A. A. (Texas)—President, Evelyn Hester, Professional Bldg., Waco; Secretary, Helen Prade, 1107 Amicable Bldg., Waco.

JACKSONVILLE D. A. A. (Fla.)—President, Ethel Jones, 403 St. James Bldg., Jacksonville; Secretary, Louise Mitchell, 424 St. James Bldg., Jacksonville.

NORTHWESTERN D. A. A. (Ohio)—President, Blanche Langan, 1405 Cook Tower, Lima; Secretary, Anna Carey, 601 National Bank Bldg., Lima.

NEW INDEPENDENT MEMBERS — A cordial welcome to our recently affiliated independent members. Ann Powell Murphy, associated with Dr. C. D. Draper, McLeod Bldg., Madisonville, Ky.; Joyce Jaqueline, Agnes Drewry, and Leonora Heim, all of whom are associated with Dr. J. Randle Luten, 809 Boyle Bldg., Little Rock, Ark.

CHANGES OF OFFICERS—The following societies have elected new officers as follows:

ALABAMA D. A. A.—President, Vallie B. Stewart, 4106 7th Wylam; Secretary, Lucile Black, 914 Watts Bldg., Birmingham.

N. CALIFORNIA D. A. A.—President, Bernice Christensen, 235 Vincente St., San Francisco; Secretary, Dorothy Blair, 107 N. School St., Lodi.

FIFTH DISTRICT D. A. A. (S. Calif.)—Secretary, Lee Wrinn, Bay Cities Bldg., Santa Monica.

GEORGIA D. A. A.—President, Virginia Collins, 920 Persons Bldg., Macon; Secretary, Beatrice Whitaker, 12 W. Jones St., Savannah.

ROCKFORD D. A. A. (Ill.)—Secretary, Katherine Scandrol, 906 Talcott Bldg., Rockford.

MADISON COUNTY D. A. A. (Ill.)—President, Dorothy Denzer, 615 E. Third St., Alton; Secretary, Dolores Bartels, 21a N. Wood River Ave., Wood River.

INDIANA D. A. A.—President, Sadie Leach, 809 Jefferson Ave., La Porte; Secretary, Alice Krick, Children's Clinic, Indiana U. School of Dentistry, Indianapolis.

GARY D. A. A. (Ind.)—President, Ina Lee Nebe, 2165 W. 11th St., Gary; Secretary, Helen Hawes, 504 Broadway, Gary.

IOWA D. A. A.—President, Mary O'Donnell, 404 Davidson Bldg., Sioux City; Secretary, Jean Weston, 1004 First National Bank Bldg., Davenport.

KANSAS D. A. A.—President, Nedra Evans, 1013 First National Bank Bldg., Wichita; Secretary, Julia Stone, 1006 Union National Bank Bldg., Wichita.

WICHITA D. A. SOC. (Kans.)—President, Eva Carey, 706 Orpheum Bldg., Wichita; Secretary, Julia Stone, 1006 Union National Bank Bldg., Wichita.

LOUISIANA D. A. A.—President, Lena Devron, 1008 American Bank Bldg., New Orleans; Secretary, Jane Macpherson, 509 Ricou-Brewster Bldg., Shreveport.

MASSACHUSETTS D. A. A.—President, Sadie Hadley, 163 Cabot St., Beverly; Secretary, Mary E. Judge, 1857 Centre St., West Roxbury.

NORTH SHORE DISTRICT D. A. A. (Mass.)—President, Carrie Breed, 145 Monroe St., Lynn; Secretary, Edna Parker, 191 N. Common St., Lynn.

WORCESTER DISTRICT D. A. A. (Mass.)—President, Dorothy Mikkelsen, 80 Central

St., Winchendon; Secretary, Marcia Lipson, 28 Pleasant St., Worcester.

MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT SOC. D. H. & A. A.—President, Doris Johnson, 107 S. E. 4th St., Minneapolis; Secretary, Margery O'Brien, 826 W. 50th St., Minneapolis.

NEBRASKA D. A. A.—President, Beulah Chaloupka, 1004 Sharp Bldg., Lincoln; Secretary, Anna Wurm, 940 Stuart Bldg., Lincoln.

NEW JERSEY D. A. A.—President, Alice Grossman, 235 Central Ave., Jersey City; Secretary, Esma Farrah, 1212 Pacific Ave., Atlantic City.

UNION COUNTY D. A. A. (N. J.)—President, Florence Poch, 7 Broad St., Elizabeth; Secretary, Priscilla Sabo, 542 New Brunswick Ave., Fords.

AKRON D. A. A. (Ohio)—President, Isabel Woodward, 2nd National Bank Bldg., Akron; Secretary, Catherine Keusgen, 414 Ohio Bldg., Akron.

TOLEDO D. A. SOC. (Ohio)—Secretary, Gladys Fowler, 1215 Edison Bldg., Toledo.

TENNESSEE D. A. A.—President, Juanita Ball, 606 Medical Arts Bldg., Chattanooga; Secretary, Mildred Thompson, 608 Medical Arts Bldg., Knoxville.

TEXAS D. A. A.—President, Thelma Parker, 716½ Broadway, Houston; Secretary, Florence Russey, 1216 Medical Arts Bldg., Fort Worth.

DALLAS COUNTY D. A. A. (Texas)—President, Ruth Kieschnick, 1104 Medical Arts Bldg., Dallas; Secretary, Frances Collins, 3427 Cedar Springs, Dallas.

FORT WORTH DISTRICT D. A. A. (Texas)—President, Gemella Conklin, 1315 Medical Arts Bldg., Fort Worth; Secretary, Aileen Cox, 802 Fort Worth National Bank Bldg., Fort Worth.

HOUSTON DISTRICT D. A. A. (Texas)—President, Thelma Parker, 716½ Broadway, Houston; Secretary, Laura Nowakowsky, 1521 Medical Arts Bldg., Houston.

WISCONSIN D. A. A.—President, Lucile Koll, 401 W. Wilson St., Madison; Sec., Eugenia Uttech, 123 N. Wash. St., Watertown.

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN D. A. & H. A. (Wisc.)—President, Ruth Brooks, 325 W. Main St., Madison; Secretary, Viola Wyss, Rt. 1, Box 109, Madison.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: The following officers have new addresses:

ESSEX COUNTY D. A. A. (N. J.)—Secretary, Vera Neuman, 614 Central Ave., East Orange.

RHODE ISLAND D. A. A.—President, Helen Searles, 210 Main St., Pawtucket.

A SPECIAL REQUEST: The General Secretary would like extra copies of all programs of the Constituent and Component Societies of the ADAA, announcements of regular meetings and educational courses.

"LOUISIANA CALLING THE A.D.A.A."

"Hello, A.D.A.A.!

"Thank you, Operator; I have my call.

"Hello, there . . . This is Louisiana speaking. Yes, we can hear you very clearly. We are calling to report our 'First Annual State Meeting.'

"What's that? When was the meeting? It was May 1, 2, and 3, in the Roosevelt Hotel. Our meeting was dedicated to the memory of our Founder, Juliette A. Southard.

"Did we have any speakers? Oh, yes, we had the honor of having Dr. S. B. Robinson, president of the Louisiana State Dental Society, who spoke on 'The Value of Organization.' Our friend, Dr. M. S. Varnado, who spoke on the subject, 'What Do You Deem Most Important in an Efficient Dental Assistant?' was an honor guest at the luncheon and made the awards for the Clinics. Let's see . . . among the other important speakers were Dr. A. C. Broussard, Dr. Colin A. McHardy, Dr. T. S. Bennett, Dr. M. F. Jarrell, and Dr. John C. Hardin.

"We wish you all could have been here for the Memorial Service. Through the Memorial and Installation Service, with its lighted candles, I know the memory of Juliette Southard will linger with us always. For wherever there is an Assistant working with humanity, with loyalty to her employer, and improving her education to make herself efficient, there will be service—and there will be the memory of Juliette Southard, for we know she did not begin this organization in vain.

"Beg pardon? Clinics? Sure, we had Clinics. We had three table clinics, as follows: 'An Efficient Tooth Brushing Technique as it can be Taught by the Dental Assistant,' given by Josephine Laenger, of Shreveport; 'Did You Know?' by Melvina Cuera, of New Orleans; and 'Inlay Technique,' by Linnie Newman, of Baton Rouge.



ELEANOR I. MARCOU

2941 West McNichols Road, Detroit, Michigan.

All notices sent in to this column for the September-October issue must be in the hands of this Editor by August 1, and should be set up in accordance with the change effective with the previous issue.

CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

DETROIT D. A. A., Detroit, Michigan. Date and place to be announced. (Data not complete.)

LEHIGH VALLEY D. A. A., Easton, Pa. Meeting discontinued during July and August.

SEATTLE DISTRICT D. A. A., Seattle, Washington. First Wednesday, September and October. (Place to be announced.)

STATE SOCIETIES

July

OREGON D. A. A., Portland, Oregon, at Roosevelt Hotel (10-11).

PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE, Portland, Oregon, at Roosevelt Hotel (10-11).

ATTENTION, PLEASE!

The set-up of this column was changed to conserve space. Due to the fact that so many program notices were incomplete and of little value, it was deemed necessary to make this change; therefore, the Constituent Societies are requested to send in data as follows: (1) Name of Society, state, and city, (2) place of meeting, and (3) state regular meeting dates; i.e., first Tuesday, third Wednesday, etc. Where the State Societies are organized, we request that data be sent in as follows: (1) Name of Society, city and state, and (2) place of meeting and date.

State Society data will be published in each issue, prior to meeting date; therefore, please send State Society information as soon as this issue is received.

"By the way, we also had a table with miscellaneous exhibits. These were the scrap books of the N.O.D.A.A.; a poster on Dental Assisting; a poem, 'The Dental Assistant,' dedicated to the Dental Assistants; and a book in the making, 'My Experience as a Dental Assistant,' by Mabel S. O'Rourke, of New Orleans.

"Did we have any social affairs? Yes, we closed our state meeting at our luncheon at the Roosevelt Hotel. That was a picture I'm sure we will remember for a long time. The table looked like spring itself, with all the lovely flowers and the little red and blue 'Mammy Dolls' representing New Orleans.

"Dr. M. B. Varnado made the presentations of the trophies, with charm and suspense. As we waited, holding our breath, wondering who was going to get each trophy, Dr. Varnado said it was at a meeting like this that he last

remembered Juliette Southard, and that here were the same kind of smiling faces and the same feminine touch. Then he ended the suspense and announced that Melvina Cuertia, of New Orleans, got the loving-cup for first award, and Josephine Laenger, of Shreveport, the A.D.A.A. pin for second place.

"As we left the luncheon, bound for our own offices, we were just a little wiser for the speeches we had heard, and the clinics we had seen; happier for the friends we had made; and we were one step nearer fulfilling the dreams of our Founder, Juliette Southard.

"The Operator is calling time on us, so thanks for listening. This is Louisiana saying so long and lots of luck."

MABEL S. O'ROURKE.

505 Legendre Bldg.
New Orleans.

JULY-AUGUST, 1941

THE WEBER COMPANY,

In building a line of equipment for dentists, have always borne in mind the beauty and artisticness that should prevail in all mechanical appliances to add to the beauty of the dental office and lessen the fear of the dental patient.

You will find in Weber design not alone an unusual utility and high value, but beauty and symmetry of design as well.

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**The "I-Can-Take-It" Club
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ing Compound**

**Practice Building Charts
and Counselling Service**

**That great polish—
Cle-Po-Wax**

and many other useful helps.

Any time that we can be of service,
write us.

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Be a real booster—proudly wear your official American Dental Assistant's pin. If you don't have one order NOW through your A.D.A.A. secretary.



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Official Jewelers

for the

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and materially contribute to the drive for
better ethical service.*

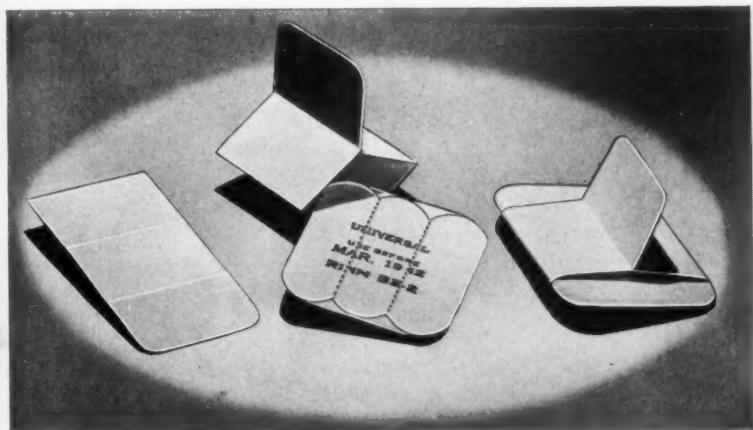
* * *

We wish to emphasize the desirability of your extending patronage to those firms who advertise in The Dental Assistant. Through their advertising, these firms are helping to support one of our most important activities. This Journal is the voice of The American Dental Assistants Association in its effort to spread the message of ethical practice and better dental assistant management. This tremendously important work **must be carried on, so we need The Dental Assistant to do it. To have the latter, we must have our advertisers** and no one should expect them to provide their support unless you—the readers of this publication—extend them preferential patronage. Our advertisers are carefully selected. Please give them your business with full confidence and always mention The Dental Assistant. Thanks!

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It's as simple as a-b-c to make Bite-Wings out of your regular films!

- a**—take a Rinn Bite-Wing Loop from dispenser Box
b—slip a periapical film thru it, and Presto!
c—you have a Bite-Wing film—ready for use!



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Economical too, 144 for \$1.00

Order a box from your dealer or send for Samples.

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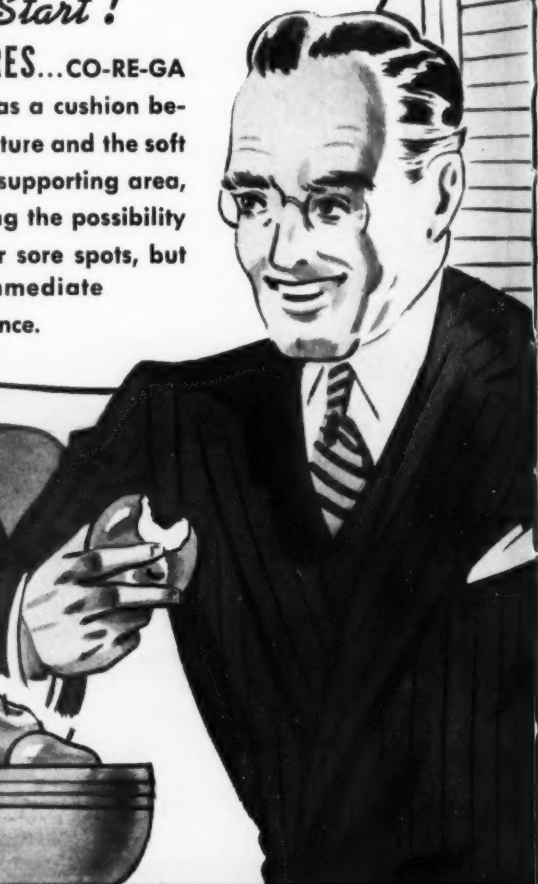


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from the Start!

NEW DENTURES...CO-RE-GA

not only acts as a cushion between the denture and the soft tissues of the supporting area, thus minimizing the possibility of irritation or sore spots, but creates immediate confidence.



WILSON'S
CO-RE-GA
(POWERED)

THE PERFECT ADHESIVE FOR DENTURES

DOCTOR!

*This Coupon
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The dentist whose patients consider him a factor in their every day lives is usually the dentist who enjoys a successful practice. For "personal service" is the foundation of patient loyalty.

Just as the M.D.'s prescriptions for home-care are a constant reminder of the service *he* gives, so *your* prescription of PYCOPE Tooth Powder and Brush can be of twice-daily service to *your* patients. Ethical products, never publicly advertised, they represent your special knowledge . . . symbolize a sincere concern for your patients' well-being.

It's Good Practice To Prescribe

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TOOTH POWDER & TOOTH BRUSHES



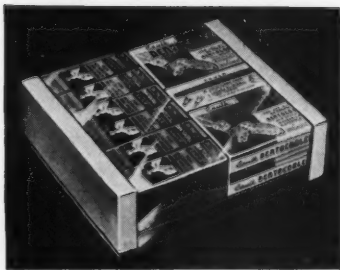
PYCOPE "Council Accepted" TOOTH POWDER can't mat a brush . . . is immediately soluble . . . contains no glycerine, grit, acid, soap . . . no sodium perborate.

PYCOPE BRUSHES have small heads, rigid handles . . . scientifically spaced bristles, wedge-cut tufts . . . a two-month guarantee. Educational folder included.

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For efficient gum massage and thorough tooth cleaning and polishing, recommend smooth, refreshingly flavored . . .

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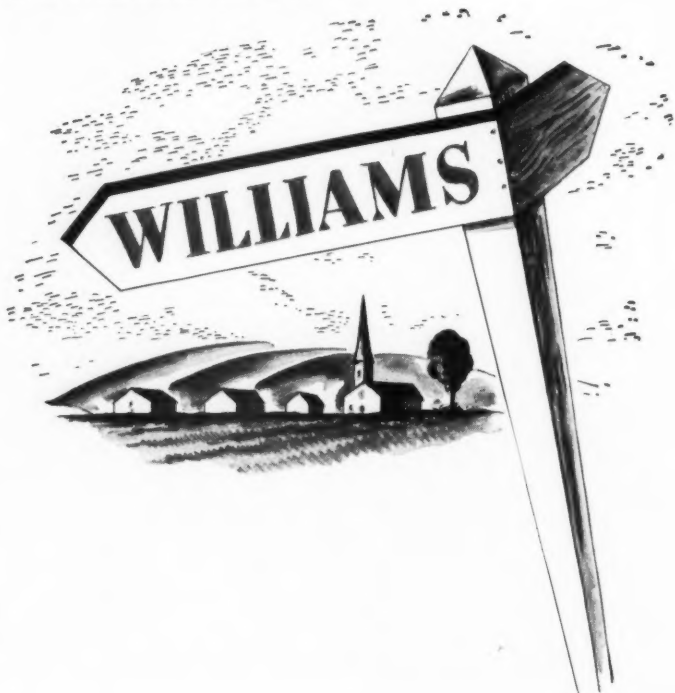
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GUIDEPOST



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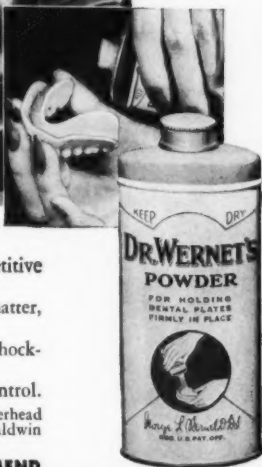
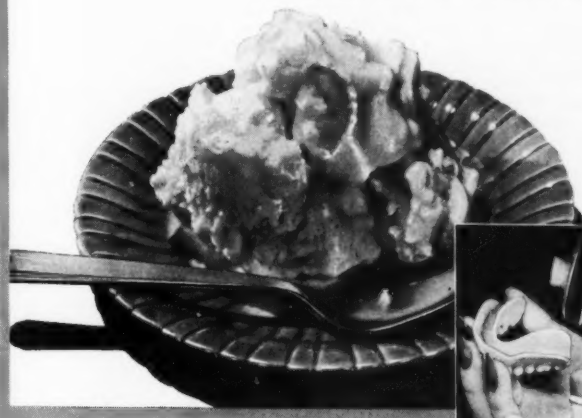
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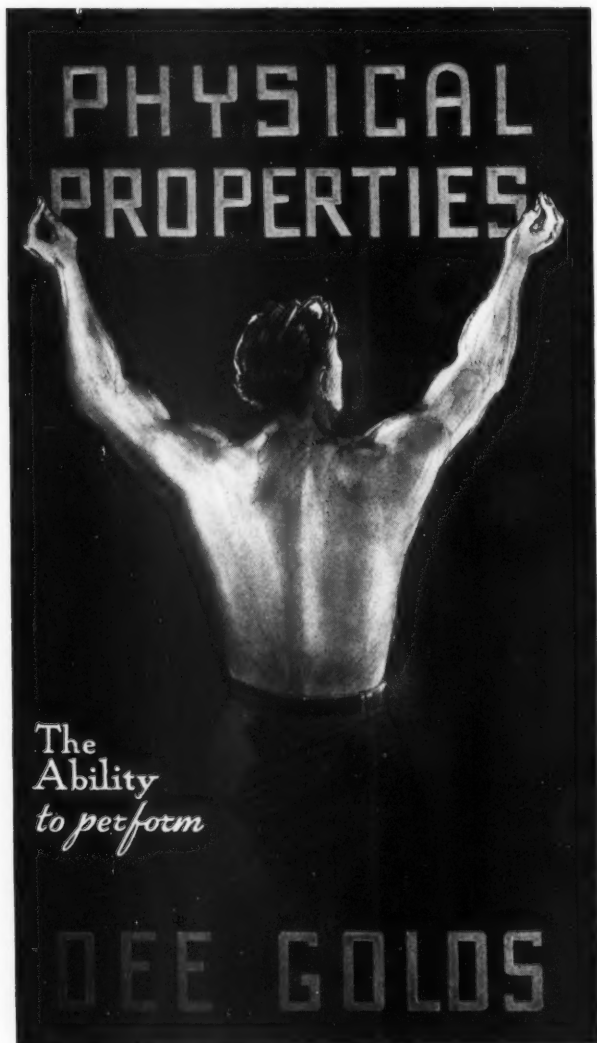
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a dental problem
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practical psychology



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Densene complies with the tentative A.D.A. Specifications for acrylic resin denture base materials.

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